

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAB-01 ACDA-05 /086 W

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R 060926Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4131

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: "NEW TIMES" CRITIQUES SINAI ACCORD

1. THE SEPTEMBER 5 ISSUE OF "NEW TIMES", AVAILABLE THE SAME DATE, CONTAINS A CRITIQUE WHICH REPRESENTS THE MOST COMPLETE SOVIET PUBLIC REACTION SO FAR TO THE SINAI ACCORD.

2. THE ARTICLE ATTACKS THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT AND BASES ITS CRITICISM ON A NUMBER OF CHANGES: THE PROVISIONS ARE UNJUSTLY FAVORABLE TO ISRAEL; THEY DIVIDE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARAB CAUSE; THEY ARE IRRELEVANT TO AN OVERALL MIDDLE EAST

SOLUTION. IN CONTRAST TO THE DAILY PRESS OF LATE, THE ARTICLE SPELLS OUT IN SOME DETAIL MOSCOW'S OBJECTIONS TO VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE AGREEMENT. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN THE SINAI IS DISCARDED AS MEANINGLESS BECAUSE 87.5 PERCENT OF THE PENINSULA REMAINS UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION. THE INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS IS PORTRAYED AS AN EFFORT BY ISRAEL'S LEADERS TO INVOLVE US TECHNICIANS IN TEL AVIV'S OWN "ADVENTURES" IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE ARTICLE ALSO CITES AT LENGTH AMERICAN SOURCES WHICH CLAIM TO SEE A PARALLEL WITH THE US INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. THE AUTHOR CONTENTS THE AGREEMENT IS NOT "BALANCED" BECAUSE THE OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORY IS PROLONGED INDEFINITELY. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO ISRAEL, THE AUTHOR INSISTS ISRAEL ACCEPTED THE ACCORD ONLY AFTER THE US HAD PROMISED IT "IMMENSE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE, PRIMARILY MILITARY."

3. THE AUTHOR SUMS UP HIS ARGUMENTS BY SAYING "OFFICIAL CIRCLES AND THE PUBLIC OF MANY ARAB COUNTRIES" ARE ALARMED BY THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE ISRAEL CAN CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY POTENTIAL, AND BECAUSE THE AGREEMENT "HAS NO CONNECTION WITH A GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT." ANYONE WHO THINKS THIS AGREEMENT HAS HELPED REDUCE TENSIONS, THE AUTHOR CONTINUES, "IS CLOSING HIS EYES TO THE ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS." MEASURES AND STEPS NOT DEALING WITH THE "CARDINAL PROBLEMS OF A GENERAL SETTLEMENT" NOT ONLY DO NOT AMELIORATE THE CRISIS; THEY CAN, ON THE CONTRARY, AGGRAVATE IT. THE BASIC PROBLEMS IN NEED OF SOLUTION, ACCORDING TO THE AUTHOR, ARE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL, "NOT ONLY EGYPTIAN", OCCUPIED TERRITORY, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLES OF PALESTINE.

4. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, THE PRESS COVERAGE DURING THE SECRETARY'S MISSION, ALBEIT SCANTY, WAS NOT SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR IN TONE AND CONTENT TO THE BY NOW STANDARD POINTS IN THIS "NEW TIMES" STORY. THIS PIECE WAS GIVEN ADVANCE COVERAGE ON SEPTEMBER 3, WHEN TASS ENGLISH RAN A FEW EXCERPTS. THE ENTIRE TEXT, HOWEVER, REFLECTS GREATER ATTENTION TO TWO POINTS IN PARTICULAR -- THE INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS, AND THE SUPPOSED ABSENCE OF ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT AND THE NEW SINAI ACCORD. THIS CRITICISM, BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPLICATION AIMED AT THE US BUT INCLUDING SOME IMPLICIT ELLIPTICAL DIGS AT EGYPT, SUGGESTS WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE STRONGER PROPAGANDA TRACTS EMPLOYING THE SAME TARGETS.  
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